

REMARKS

I. Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim to priority and receipt of the priority document. Furthermore, Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 2, 2003.

II. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant herein amends independent claim 1. No new matter has been added.

III. Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 37 C.F.R. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Wnek et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,863,205; hereinafter "*Wnek*"). The Examiner rejects claim 3 under 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Wnek* in view of *Coto et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 4,817,814; hereinafter "*Coto*").

Claim 1, as amended, recites *inter alia*:

restricting a width of the conducting portion on a pressing face of a vibration member;

pressing the core wires of the conducting portion restricted in the restricting step by a pressing face of a pressing member and the pressing face of the vibration member; and

joining the pressed core wires of the conducting portion
each other so that the conducting portion is integrally formed into a
flat plate-shape;

wherein the pressing face of the vibration member has a flat
face; and

wherein the pressing face of the pressing member has a flat
face.

Thus, amended claim 1, requires, *inter alia*, that a width of the conducting portion be restricted on a pressing face of the vibration member; the pressing member and the pressing face press the core wires of the conducting portion; and that both the pressing member and the vibration member have flat faces.

Wnek, by contrast, discloses an ultrasonic welder that utilizes an anvil 26, and a tip 18 that work to press a stack of wires together. Notably, the work surfaces of the anvil 26, and the tip 18 have serrated faces. FIGS. 5-11 of *Wnek* clearly show the serrated faces of the work surfaces. Thus, *Wnek* fails to teach all of the features of claim 1 since claim 1 requires flat faces.

Furthermore, the serrated faces, as disclosed in *Wnek*, suffer from a disadvantage in that they may actually weaken the integrity of the core wires, or reduce the width of only some portions the core wires. The claimed invention, by contrast, solves this problem. The flat faces of the pressing member and the vibration member cause the entire shape of the restricted core wires to be deformed uniformly. Specifically, this uniformity results directly from the flat faces pressing equally on all sides of the restricted core wires. As a result, strength and integrity of the core wires are maintained throughout the ultrasonic welding process. Therefore, the flat face features of claim 1 represent an important distinction over the prior art.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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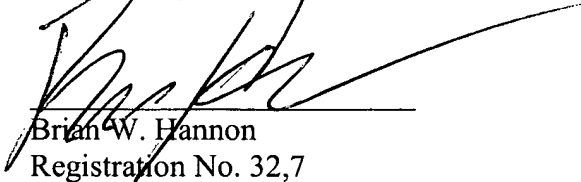
Consequently, Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the disclosure of *Wnek*, at least due to the unique feature of the flat faces of the pressing member and the vibration member. Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-3.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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